

REMARKS:

Claims 1-5 are in the case and presented for consideration.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to limit the invention to the measuring of parameters at at least two separate locations on a substrate. In the apparatus Claim 1 these two locations can either be perpendicular to the movement direction of the substrate as shown in Fig. 2, or as supported by the specification at page 10, line 41 to page 11, line 4, and also illustrated in Fig. 2, two sequential locations in the movement direction of the substrate. Method Claim 2 is also limited to measurements at two separate locations of the substrate.

Claim 3 further limits Claim 1 to the use of multiple sensors extending in the perpendicular direction to the substrate movement direction and Claims 4 and 5 depend from Claim 2 and respectively define the multiple sensor and the single sensor embodiments.

Turning to the Office Action, the specification has been amended to reference items 9 and 11 in Fig. 1 and items 29 and 31 in Fig. 2 which are respectively the substrate holders and the substrates in each case.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 2 as being fully anticipated by U.S. patent 6,038,525 to Maguire et al.

Maguire does not utilize multiple measurements of the substrates. Instead a single measurement is taken. According to the invention, the advantage of using two or more measurements is important and produces a control loop for enhancing the uniformity of the parameters of the substrates, in particular, their thickness across the entirety of each substrate in a dynamic fashion. As disclosed in the specification at page 11, lines 29-36 for example, the non-uniformity need not be known in advance but can be measured

dynamically and on the fly to adjust the parameters of the coating process to make the previous non-uniform thickness, uniform. According to the present invention this can be achieved even without knowing the cause of the non-uniformity.

The claims are therefore believed to be patentably distinct over Maguire and the application and claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned if any matters remain and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/PETER C. MICHALOS/

Peter C. Michalos

Reg. No. 28,643

Attorney for Applicants

Tel. 845-359-7700

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NOTARO & MICHALOS P.C.

100 Dutch Hill Road, Suite 110

Orangeburg, New York 10962-2100

Customer No. 21706